

REMARKS

Claims 10, 13-23 and 25-27 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 10, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20-23 and 25-27 are amended, and claims 11, 12 and 24 are canceled. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action indicates that claims 19, 20, 22, 24 and 25 contain allowable subject matter. By this amendment, the features of allowable claim 24 have been incorporated into independent claims 10, 16 and 21. In view of this change, it is believed that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

II. FORMAL MATTERS

The Office Action objects to paragraph 22 of the substitute specification which was filed with the last amendment. By this amendment, paragraph 22 is amended to clarify the meaning of that paragraph. In view of these changes, withdrawal of the objection to paragraph 22 of the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also rejects claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Office Action alleges that the originally-filed specification does not provide support for the features recited in claim 27.

The Examiner's attention is directed to paragraph 24 of the specification. This paragraph explains that in order to install the drying basket 4, the lint filter 13 is first removed so that the openings 5 and 6 in the end plate become accessible. The drying basket 4 is then inserted into the dryer by inserting the bent portions 20 of the wire rack into the openings 5, 6 in the end plate of the dryer. As explained in paragraph 24, the bent support portions of the drying basket come to rest on the end plate 2 of the dryer. The lint filter 13 can then be

fitted into the end plate so that the diaphragm 24 of the lint cover 13 covers the recess 12 and the lateral projections 25 of the lint cover 13 cover the openings 5 and 6 in the end plate.

This paragraph of the originally-filed specification makes it clear that the lint filter can be mounted in and removed from a recess in the end plate while the basket remains stationarily mounted on the end plate and extending into the drum of the dryer. Thus, this paragraph of the originally-filed specification provides support for claim 27, which recites that the mounting of the bent end sections into the basket openings of the end plate, and the engagement between bent supporting sections and the end plate do not prevent a lint filter from being mounted in a recess in the end plate. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 27 is supported by the originally-filed specification, and by the accompanying drawings which illustrate the features recited in claim 27. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 27 is respectfully requested.

III. CLAIMS 10 AND 11 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Herr (U.S. Patent No. 6,026,592). Claim 11 has been canceled. With respect to claim 10, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the features of allowable claim 24 have been incorporated into independent claim 10. For this reason, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

IV. CLAIMS 13, 16, 21, 23 and 26 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claims 12, 13, 16, 21, 23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herr, in view of St. Louis (U.S. Patent No. 4,677,760). As noted above, claim 12 has been canceled. With respect to the remaining claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, independent claims 10, 16 and 21 have all been amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 24. Claims 13 and 23 depend from independent claim 10, and claim 26 depends from independent claim 16. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 13, 16, 21, 23 and 26 are now all allowable. Withdrawal of rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

V. CLAIMS 14 AND 15 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herr, in view of Czech (U.S. Patent No. 4,720,925), and further in view of a Maytag Appliance Owner's Manual. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from independent claim 10. As noted above, the features of allowable claim 24 have been incorporated into independent claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 14 and 15 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

VI. CLAIMS 17, 18 and 27 ARE ALLOWABLE

The Office Action rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herr, in view of St. Louis, and further in view of Thorn (GB 1,491,851). The Office Action also rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herr, in view of St. Louis, and further in view of Kretchman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,908,959). The Office Action further rejects claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herr, in view of St. Louis and further in view of Czech et al. and Maytag. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 17, 18 and 27 all ultimately depend from independent claim 16. As noted above, the features of allowable claim 24 have been incorporated into independent claim 16. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 17, 18 and 27 are all now allowable. Withdrawal of the rejections of these claims is respectfully requested.

VII. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 10, 13-23 and 25-27 are respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,

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